(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Pollution Control Board for the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board has delegated all the relevant powers to the Delhi Pollution Control Committee under Section 4 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 6 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

This delegation of power has been notified and came into force with effect from 1st June, 1993.

(c) Does not arise.

Mishandling of Funds of Indian Embassy in Athens

3878. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI': Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Comptroller and Auditor General has objected on mishandling of funds of Indian Embassy in Athens (Greece) as reported in the "Times of India", New Delhi on 7th June, 1993 under caption 'CAG pulls up Indian Mission on funds";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the case are that in September 1990, the Indian Mission in Athens, with the approval of this Ministry sold government property in Athens for Greek Drachmas 80 million. Pending the permission of the Greek Government, which was mandatory, for the repatriation of funds, the Mission deposited this amount in a local bank, in a separate interest bearing Savings Bank Account. In November 1991, at the instance of the Audit authorities, the Mission learnt that no interest was being earned as foreign governments were not permitted to keep funds in any interest bearing Savings Bank Account. When this matter was reported to the Ministry, further remittances of foreign exchange from India to the Mission were stopped and the Mission was instructed to utilise these funds to meet its day-to-day requirements. From February 1992, the Mission implemented these instructions. The amount of Greek Drachmas 80 million has since been fully utilised. The objection raised by the Audit authorities was that the Mission should have settled the question of interest unambiguously before putting the funds in the Bank account.

(c) In order to avoid recurrence of such instances in future, all Indian Missions/Posts abroad have been instructed to take adequate precautions in handling public funds.

Comparision between India and USA

3879. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-United Arab Emirates session of the Joint Commission for Economic Technical and Scientific Cooperation was held from June 6 to 8 this year;

(b) if so, what issues were considered at the meeting and what was the outcome thereof, and the steps taken and being taken to strengthen bilateral ties in the light thereof; and

(c) whether any extradition treaty proposals were discussed therein, if so, in what context and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Press Statement issued after conclusion of the session is enclosed, which furnishes the details (*See* below).

(c) Drafts covering a possible Treaty of Juridical and Judicial Cooperation, including Extradition, have been exchanged with UAE, and India's proposal to enter into negotiations is under consideration by them.

Press Statement

The Sixth meeting of the Indo-UAE Joint Commission was held in Abu Dhabi from June 6—8, 1993.

Mr. K. Srinivasan, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. Mohammed Khalifa bin Yousef Al Suwaidi, Director, Economic Relations and International Cooperation,